

PONTEFRACT
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Borough of Pontefract.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year ended December 31st, 1924.

PONTEFRACT :

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Medical Officer's Report

For the Year ending December 31st, 1924.

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To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough
of Pontefract.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present, for your information and consideration, my Third Annual Report on the health of the Borough for the year 1924.

I.—GENERAL STATISTICS.

- (a) The area of the Borough as given by the Registrar General is 4,078 acres (land and inland water together). The approximate acreages of the Wards are as follows:—

No. 1.	West	...	...	1,198
No. 2.	North	...	...	640
No. 3.	East	...	...	707
No. 4.	South	...	...	861
No. 5.	Mill Hill	...	...	623
No. 6.	Central	...	...	49

Total ... 4,078

- (b) **Population.** The number given by the Registrar General is:—

For Birth Rate	...	...	18,160
For Death Rate	...	...	17,660

- (c) The number of inhabited houses is 3,392.
(d) The number of families or separate occupiers is estimated as 3,640.
(e) The Rateable Value of the Borough is £113,905.
(f) The sum represented by a penny rate is £378.
(g) District Rate Assessable Value £96,535.

II.—EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

(a) Births :—

			M.	F.
Legitimate	...	461	246	215
Illegitimate	...	24	7	17
Total Births		485	253	232

This gives a birth rate per 1,000 population of 26.7. 1923, 26.9; 1922, 27.6; 1921, 30.5.

(b) The number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth :—

(1) From Sepsis	...	...	1
(2) From other causes	...	...	0

(c) Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 births :—1924, 103.1; 1923, 107.6; 1922, 112.4; 1921, 121.3.

		M.	F.
Legitimate	...	24	21
Illegitimate	...	2	3
Total		26	24

(d) Deaths from Measles (all ages) 8; rate per 1,000 0.45.

(e) „ Whooping Cough „ 2; „ 0.11.

(f) „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... 8; „ 16.5

(g) Deaths. The total number of registered deaths, after transfers, was 256, the death rate being 14.5.

The outstanding features of the death returns are :—

1. The continued high death rate of infants under 1 year of age, namely, 103.1. This has shown a gradual decrease for the past 4 years, but is still very unsatisfactory.
2. The large number of persons dying from diseases of the lungs, 69 out of a total of 256.
3. The large number of deaths certified as due to Congenital debility and malformation and premature birth—24.
4. The increase in the number of infants under 2 years of age dying from diarrhoea and associated conditions—1924, 8; 1923, 5.
5. The large number of deaths from Tuberculosis—26.



The principal factors in the causation of these returns are in my opinion :—

- (1). The overcrowding which is still existent in the Borough.
- (2). The amount of slum property with unsatisfactory sanitary arrangements.
- (3). The amount of pollution of the air by smoke.
- (4). The conditions associated with depression in trade, together with the continued high price of food commodities.

The remedying of these would be the speeding up of the building of new houses, in the hope that eventually some of the most insanitary, badly lighted and ventilated property could be done away with. The conversion where possible of earth closets into water closets. A general improvement in the method and system of collecting and dealing with refuse, and in the sweeping of the streets and cleansing of the gullies. Special efforts to educate the mother, also the expectant mother, in the feeding, clothing, and general hygiene connected with the rearing of a baby, to encourage mothers to take advice during the antenatal period.

III.—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

		Total Cases certified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Total deaths.
Small Pox	...	—	—	—
Diphtheria	...	10	10	3
Scarlet Fever	...	58	56	1
Enteric Fever	...	6	4	1
Puerperal Fever	...	2	—	1
Erysipelas	...	9	—	—
Tuberculosis :—				
Pulmonary—Males	...	...	...	23
Females	...	...	...	17
			Total ...	40
Non-Pulmonary—Males	...	...	...	6
Females	...	...	...	3
			Total ...	9

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases.		Non	Pulmonary.	Pulmonary		Deaths.	
	Pulmonary.	F	M	F	M	F	Non	Pulmonary
	M						M	F
0								1
1	1						2	1
5	2	2	2		0		1	
10	2	3	1	1	1	2		
15	2	1	2	1		2		
20	4	1						
25	5	3		1		1	1	
35	2	5	1		1	2		
45	4					2	1	
55		1			2	3		
65 upw'ds	1	1			2	1		
Totals	23	17	6	3	6	13	5	2

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Notified.	Cases.		Vision	Vision	Total	Deaths.
	At Home.	Treated. Hospital.	Unimpaired.	Impaired.	Blindness.	
Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

IV.—CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

Scarlet fever during the early months of the year was very prevalent, being a continuation of the epidemic commencing in November, 1924. The cases were assuming a milder form with one exception which was very toxic and died.

There were many cases of Influenza in February, March and April, complications were very few. Measles has only occurred in isolated cases, these being of a very mild type.

There has been an epidemic of mumps and whooping cough, necessitating the closing of two of the Infant Schools for a period of 3 weeks in each case.

The increase of the number of cases of pulmonary Tuberculosis, also Non-Pulmonary, is alarming. This

increase is 100 per cent. compared with 1923. I think that this increase is partly accounted for by the earlier diagnosis and notification of cases. The housing and living conditions in many cases were very unsatisfactory. Several of the cases were associated with definite overcrowding, and in some of these portions of the house had been sublet, thus preventing efficient isolation for sleeping. This sub-letting had been done with a view to increasing the income of the home, and thus allow the extra nourishment required to be purchased.

Where better houses were offered the parents were not always able to take advantage owing to the increased rent which they could not afford.

I would suggest that:—

(1) Wherever possible in the letting of new houses consideration be first given to families in which Tuberculosis is present.

(2) Sub-letting of rooms should not be allowed in any case where tuberculosis exists in the family.

(3) In cases not suitable for Sanatorium Treatment owing to the advanced stage of the disease and where satisfactory isolation cannot be obtained in the home, the patients should be persuaded if possible to go into Hospital, thus lessening the risks of infection to the remainder of the household.

(4) A byelaw regarding spitting in public places with notices to the effect in conspicuous places pointing out its dangers and the penalties for non-compliance should be adopted.

(5) Some means where the families are in very poor circumstances should be taken to provide extra nourishment, bedding and clothing where considered necessary.

V.—SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS, ETC.

A.—The Pontefract and District Nursing Association continues to render excellent professional help in the homes for both medical and surgical cases. There is now a nurse and assistant nurse. It is maintained purely by voluntary subscriptions, and is worthy of more support. Three midwives practise in the

Borough. These receive no subsidy from the Local Authority.

B.—(1). A Maternity and Child Welfare Centre is held weekly on Monday afternoons at the Congregational Schools, Back Northgate. This is provided by the West Riding County Council, but is being taken over by the Local Authority on April 1st, 1925. A voluntary committee of ladies render excellent service. Babies are weighed and advice given by Child Welfare Medical Officer and Health Visitor. Tea and entertainment are provided by this voluntary committee. Expectant mothers are invited.

(2). School Minor Ailments Clinic is held daily during school days at 10 a.m. at the Baghill School, Walkergate. This is under the Local Education Authority, and is attended by the School Nurse under the supervision of the School Medical Officer.

(3). Dental Clinic is held twice weekly at above address.

(4). Ophthalmic Clinic once a fortnight. Cases are referred to these by the School Medical Officer. Parents desiring their children to attend should notify the School Nurse, when arrangements can be made.

C.—Tuberculosis Dispensary, Linden Terrace, under the W.R.C.C., Tuesdays and Fridays.

D.—Venereal Diseases Clinics at the Clayton Hospital, Wakefield, and the Leeds General Infirmary.

E.—Hospitals.—

(1) **Tuberculosis.**—The Pontefract Union Infirmary can take cases of Tuberculosis; no other beds locally.

(2). **Maternity.** No local beds, but an arrangement with the Wakefield M.O.H. has been made, for the admission of necessary cases to the Wakefield Maternity Hospital, by the Local Authority.

(3). **Children.** The Pontefract Infirmary and Dispensary.

(4). **Fever.** The Pontefract Joint Isolation Hospital, Baghill. Accommodation is about 50 beds. Cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Enteric Fever can be taken.

(5). **Smallpox.** The Sherburn-in-Elmet Joint Hospital.

F.—Unmarried Mothers and Illegitimate Children.—The

Haven, Southgate, which is voluntary, or the Pontefract Union Infirmary.

G.—Ambulance facilities:—

- (1). Infectious Cases. The ambulance of the Joint Isolation Hospital is available for these cases.
- (2). Non-infectious and accident cases.—The St. John Ambulance Brigade Motor Ambulance is available. A grant is made towards the upkeep by the Local Authority.

VI.—LABORATORY WORK.

Pathological and bacteriological examinations are carried out by the West Riding County Council Authority at Wakefield. A stock of Diphtheria Antitoxin can be obtained from myself or the Sanitary Inspector by local medical practitioners for immediate use. The quantities are suitable for prophylactic use or early treatment pending the result of bacteriological examination or admission to Hospital.

VII.—SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

(1). Adoptive Acts:—

- The Infectious Diseases Prevention Act 1890.
- The Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1890.
- The Private Streets Works Act 1892.
- The Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907, Parts II., III., IV., V. and X.
- The Public Libraries Acts.
- The Baths and Washhouses Acts.

Bye-laws:—

- New Streets and Buildings, 5th February, 1924.
- Good Rule and Government, 15th February, 1905, 24th November, 1908, and 5th September, 1912.
- Drainage of Existing Buildings, 3rd October, 1908.
- Preventing the Waste, Undue Consumption, Misuse or Contamination of Water, 3rd October, 1908.
- Nuisances, 1st December, 1908.
- Slaughter Houses, 14th January, 1909.

Common Lodging Houses, 12th February, 1909.

Offensive Trades, 9th February, 1925.

Education (School Attendance), 10th October, 1907.

Employment of Children and Young Persons, 1st October, 1921.

Public Baths, 12th November, 1923.

Free Library, 26th September, 1924.

Regulations.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops, 1st May, 1902.

Cemetery, 10th January, 1924.

(2) Water Supply :—

The quality of the town's water supply has been good, and no examination of it has been necessary during the year. Tanks have been placed in some of the Council houses in the higher levels at King's Mead. I understand these are acting satisfactorily in counteracting the insufficient pressure which was present at certain times of the day. The projected new water main from Roall Water Works should make the water supply ample for the Borough. In the meantime every care should be taken to conserve the supply as much as possible by taking every means to prevent waste. A new water main has been laid to the Toll Hill building site.

Owing to contamination of well supplying cottages at Fairy Hill, the town's water supply has now been laid on to the eight cottages there.

In a number of cases standpipes have been done away with and water has been taken into the houses. These are detailed in the Sanitary Inspector's Report. There are still a number which require doing.

(3). Drainage and Sewerage.

The Sewerage Works continue to work satisfactorily, although they are heavily taxed by the large amount

of sewerage they have to deal with. The large quantity of surface water is partly responsible for this, but in addition the dry weather flow is increasing rapidly and will continue to do so because of the number of conversions of privies anticipated and the number of new houses to be built.

The future necessity in all probability of a surface water scheme should be kept in view in the method of drainage of the new housing schemes. Separate drainage schemes are urgently required to replace the present system of cesspools at Toll Hill and Ackworth Road. These at present are very unsatisfactory and the efficient emptying is a difficult and costly process.

(4). **Closet Accommodation :—**

	1924.	1923.
No. of Pail or Tub Closets ...	20	20
No. of Privies with covered middens	400	400
No. of Water Closets ...	2549	2504
No. of Waste Water Closets ...	240	240
No. of Privies reconstructed as W.Cs. ...	6	8
No. of Closets constructed for new houses—W.Cs. ...	39	32
Ditto ditto—Other ...	2	0

(5). **Scavenging :—**

This work is performed by the Council themselves.

Disposal of refuse :—

	1924	1923
(a) Destructor ...	4988	4472 loads.
(b) Tips ...	6264	3643 „
(c) Farmers ...	54	478 „

Total annual cost £4,502/11/0.

The following is a detailed statement of the cost of Refuse collection :—

Refuse Destructor—

		£	s	d			
Manual Labour	...	676	9	8			
Team Labour	...	50	0	4			
		726	10	0			
Other Expenses	...	634	18	6			
					1361	8	6

Ashpit Cleansing—

Manual Labour	...	1263	1	2			
Team Labour	...	1037	4	8			
					2299	5	10

Trade Refuse—

Manual Labour	...	135	5	10			
Team Labour	...	82	15	8			
					218	1	6
Horses and Carts	...	250	0	0			
Motors	...	200	0	0			
Other Expenses	...	173	15	2			
					623	15	2

Total ... £4502 11 0

No. of loads collected 11,306, at a cost of 7/11½ per load.

The tipping of refuse in my opinion is not satisfactory owing to the large amount of vegetable matter at present contained in it. This decays and becomes very offensive, giving off gases which must be injurious to people living in the vicinity. The remedies for this would be to ask the people to burn as much vegetable matter and litter in their own grates as possible. Notices to this effect should be posted up. To employ a man, with a small incinerator provided at the tip, to burn the vegetable matter and litter as it arrives. On the other hand to provide a refuse destructor which is capable of dealing with the whole of the refuse of the Borough. This would be the ideal solution of the problem.

(6). Dairies and Cowsheds :—

No. of Cowkeepers 21. Registered 21.

No. of Retail Milk Sellers who are also Cowkeepers 21.

No. of Milk Retailers only, 8.

Total number of Milk Sellers, 29.

7.—Slaughter Houses.—

Licensed 13, Registered 2.

These have been inspected and found satisfactory.

8.—Bakehouses.—11. Satisfactory.**9.—Elementary Schools.—**

An examination has been made and sanitary arrangements will be satisfactory with a few repairs advised. These have or are being carried out.

Factories and Workshops.—

The smoke nuisance from the Prince of Wales Colliery has been abated. The tipping has been moved as asked.

Observations have been made of the smoke issuing from factory chimneys, and a caution has been sent in one instance.

The Inspector of Nuisance's Annual Report is attached.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.—

W. T. Hessel, Medical Officer of Health (part-time).

A. B. Jackson, Sanitary Inspector (full-time).

IX.—HOUSING.—

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total, 39.

(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts, 1919, 1923 or 1924 :

(1) By the Local Authority 16;

(2) By other bodies or persons . . . 11.

1. Unfit dwellinghouses. Inspection :—

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts), 80.

Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation, 1.

Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation, 13.

2. Remedy of defects without service of formal notices
Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers, 47.

3. Action under Statutory powers—

A.—Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning etc. Act, 1919—

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs, 0.

(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices, 0.

(a) By owners, 0.

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners, 0.

(3) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close, 0.

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied, 14.

(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners, 14.

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners, 0.

C.—Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning etc. Act 1900 :—

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders, 1.

(2) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders were made, 1.

(3) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwellinghouses having been rendered fit, 1.

(4) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made, 0.

(5) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders, 0.

Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces—

(including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector or Inspector of Nuisances)

Factories (including Factory Laundries) ... 10

Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) 30

Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises) 0

Total ... 40

Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces—

Want of Cleanliness—Found 7; Remedied 7.

Statistical Tables are attached.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

W. T. HESSEL,
Medical Officer of Health.

CAUSES OF DEATH.		Males.	Females.
Enteric Fever	...	1	
Small Pox	...		
Measles	...	4	4
Scarlet Fever	...	1	
Whooping Cough	...	1	1
Diphtheria	...	1	2
Influenza	...	2	6
Encephalitis Lethargica	...		1
Meningococcal Meningitis	...		
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	7	12
Other Tuberculous Diseases		3	4
Cancer, Malignant Disease		9	8
Rheumatic Fever	...	1	
Diabetes	...	1	
Cerebral Haemorrhage. etc.		7	3
Heart Disease	...	9	8
Arterio-sclerosis	...		5
Bronchitis	...	19	6
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	24	18
Other Respiratory Diseases		1	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	2	
Diarrhœa &c (under 2 years)		5	3
Appendicitis and Typhlitis			
Cirrhosis of Liver	...		
Acute and Chronic Nephritis			4
Puerperal Sepsis	...		1
Other Accidents & Diseases of Pregnancy & Parturition			
Congenital debility & Malformation, premature Birth		10	14
Suicide	...	6	
Other Deaths from Violence		3	2
Other Defined Diseases	...	21	15
Causes ill-defined or unknown			
From all Causes	Totals	138	118
Deaths of Infants } under 1 year }	Total ...	26	24
	Illegitimate	2	3

Causes of, and ages at Death, during the Year 1924.

CAUSES.	ALL AGES	Under 1 year	1—2 years	2—5 years	5—15 years	15—25 years	25—45 years	45—60 years	60 & upwards
Enteric Fever ...	1						1		
Small Pox ...									
Measles ...	8	5	2		1				
Scarlet Fever ...	1					1			
Whooping Cough ...	2	2							
Diphtheria ...	3			3					
Influenza ...	8			1			3	2	2
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	1					1			
Meningococcal Meningitis ...									
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	19				3	2	4	7	3
Other Tuberculous Diseases	7	1	1	2	1		1	1	
Cancer, Malignant Disease	17					1	1	5	10
Rheumatic Fever ...	1						1		
Diabetes ...	1								1
Cerebral Haemorrhage. etc.	10					1		2	7
Heart Disease ...	17					2	2	5	8
Arterio-sclerosis ...	5						2		3
Bronchitis ...	25	5		2			2	5	11
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	42	6	11	10	5	1	3	5	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	2					1			1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	2						2		
Diarrhoea &c (under 2 years)	8	7	1						
Appendicitis and Typhlitis									
Cirrhosis of Liver ...									
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	4					1	1	1	1
Puerperal Sepsis ...	1					1			
Other Accidents & Diseases of Pregnancy & Parturition									
Congenital debility & Malformation, premature Birth	24	24							
Suicide ...	6						3	2	1
Other Deaths from Violence	5			1			3	1	
Other Defined Diseases ...	36								
Causes ill-defined or unknown ...					1	2	2	6	25
TOTAL ...	256	50	15	19	11	14	31	42	74

Analysis of Infantile Deaths, 1924.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1 week	1 to 2 weeks	2 to 3 weeks	3 to 4 weeks	4 weeks & under 3 months	3 months & under 6 months	6 to 9 months	9 to 12 months	TOTAL.
All Causes Certified									
Un-Certified									
Small-Pox									
Measles								4	4
Scarlet Fever									
Diphtheria and Croup									
Whooping Cough					1	1			2
Diarrhœa (all forms)		1			3	1	2		7
Enteritis Muco					1	1	2		4
Gastro									
Gastritis									
Premature Birth	11	1		1	2				15
Congenital Defects	1	1	2						4
Injury at Birth									
Want of Breast Milk, Starvation									
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus									
Tuberculous Meningitis									
Tuberculous Peritonitis									
Tabes Mesenterica							1		1
Other Tuberculous Diseases							1		1
Erysipelas									
Syphilis									
Rickets									
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)									
Convulsions									
Bronchitis	2				1	1	1		5
Laryngitis									
Pneumonia					1	3		2	6
Suffocation, overlaying	1								1
Other Causes									
TOTAL	15	3	2	1	9	7	7	6	50

Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1924.

	Birth Rate per 1000 total population.	Annual Death-rate per 1000 population.								Rate per 1000 Births		Percentage of Total Deaths.			
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small Pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea & Enteritis (under 2 years).	Total Deaths (under 1 year).	Causes of Death certified by Registered Medical Practitioners.	Inquest Cases.	Uncertified Causes of Death.
England and Wales ...	18.8	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.12	0.02	0.10	0.06	0.49	0.44	7.3	75	92.3	6.6	1.1
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London ...	19.4	12.3	0.01	0.00	0.18	0.03	0.12	0.08	0.45	0.40	9.2	80	92.5	6.9	0.6
157 Small Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations 20,000—50,000).	18.9	11.2	0.01	0.00	0.08	0.02	0.09	0.06	0.50	0.30	6.2	71	93.3	5.5	1.2
London ...	18.7	12.1	0.01	—	0.29	0.03	0.11	0.12	0.36	0.44	8.4	69	91.3	8.6	0.1
Pontefract ...	26.7	14.5	0.05	0.00	0.45	0.05	0.11	0.17	0.45	0.28	16.5	103.09	94.1	5.9	0.0

TABLE C.

NUISANCE INSPECTIONS.

Total No. of Inspections made in 1924, for Nuisances only, 485.
 Nuisances reported in 1924, 96. Total needing abatement, 29.
 Nuisances in hand, end of 1923, 18. Abated during 1924, 75.
 Outstanding end of 1924, 40.
 Notices served, Informal, 96. Complied with, 85.
 „ „ Statutory, 99. „ „ 70.

Regulated Buildings, Trades, &c.	No. in District	No. on Register	Total No. of Inspections made.	General Condition
Common Lodging Houses ...	5	5	25	Good.
Knackers' Yards ...	1	1	6	Good.
Offensive Trades ...	3	3	20	Good.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Developments during 1924.—None.
 Developments still needed as to (a) Want of Sewers.—
 Ackworth Road and Townville.
 Sewage Disposal Works (a) Any inadequacy.—None.
 (b) Any complaints.—No.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

No. of Privies with open middens.—0.
 No. of Pail or Tub Closets—20.
 No. of Water Closets—2549. Waste-water Closets—240.
 No. of Privies with covered middens, 400.
 No. of Privies re-constructed during 1924—(a) as w.cs.—6 con-
 versions; (b) other—0.
 No. of Closets constructed in 1924 for new houses (a) w.cs.,
 39. (b) other—2.

SCAVENGING.

Any change during 1924?—No.
 Performed by (a) Council.—Yes.
 How is refuse disposed of?—
 No. of loads to (a) Destructor—4,988; (b) Tips—6264;
 (c) Farmers—54. Total annual cost—£4502/11/0.
 Is there any inadequacy, and where?—None.
 Any utilisation of Waste material?—Yes. If so, what?—
 Glass and scrap iron.

WATER SUPPLY.

Any developments during 1924?—New Main extended to Fairy Hill and at Toll Hill Building Site.

Restricted in any way?—No.

Any general insufficiency, and where?—Poor pressure in higher parts of Town.

Any action in regard to unsatisfactory quality, and where?—None.

Any new sources added?—No.

MILK SUPPLY.

Are Two Registers being kept as required by Section 2 (3) of the 1922 Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act?—(a) For Retailers. (b) For Cowkeepers or Wholesale Traders?—Yes.

Have any Licences been granted under the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, to distributors of:—“Certified” milk—0; “Grade A”—0; “Grade A (Tuberculin Tested)”—0; “Grade A (Pasteurised)”—0; “Pasteurised”—0.

Have you had samples of Graded Milk tested?—No.

Have any retailers been removed from the Register?—No.

No. of samples taken by Officers of S.A. for analysis under F. & D. Acts—1. No. adulterated—0.

No. of samples taken by Officers of S.A. for bacteriological examination—0.

Any instance of disease attributed to milk in 1924?—None.

No. of Cowkeepers in district producing and selling milk.—21.

No. Registered—21.

No. who are milk retailers only—8.

Total No. of Retail Milk Sellers Registered—29.

Total No. of Cowsheds—21. Total No. of Inspections in 1924—21. Cowkeepers 21, Retailers 8.

Date of Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Regulations?—1902.

Any inspection or other action by Districts to which Milk is sent?—No.

OTHER FOODS.

No. of seizures of unsound food—1. Kind and quantity—1 Beast.

Any Public Abattoir?—No.

No. of Slaughterhouses—15. Registered—2. Licensed—13. Unsatisfactory, structurally or in bad position?—0.

No. of times each Slaughterhouse inspected?—5. Total Inspections—75.

Bakehouses, No. 11. Total No. of Inspections—22.

SCHOOLS.

No. of Schools in district—12. No. visited by M.O.H.—12.

Action taken—Repairs to lavatories ordered, also disinfection of schoolroom.

Schools closed by M.O.H.—2.

ADOPTIVE ACTS.

Acts adopted during 1924—None.

BYELAWS AND REGULATIONS.

Any Bye-Laws made under Section 26 of Housing and Town Planning Act, 1919, as to houses divided into separate tenements.—None.

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Diseases specially prevalent in 1924?—Scarlet fever, mumps, whooping cough. State months—January, February, October, November and December.

Any diseases specially added to notifiable list?—None.

Any influences threatening the health of the District?—None.

Any undue prevalence of Venereal Diseases?—No.

Any prevalence of Jaundice, and at what ages?—None.

HOSPITALS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS.

(a) General: Accident—Address, Dispensary, Southgate.
Children: Dispensary, Southgate.

(c) Infectious, General—Baghill Joint Hospital. Smallpox—Sherburn-in-Elmet.

Any arrangements for nursing Puerperal Fever cases?—Not definite.

Whether any other disease (e.g., Pneumonia) is treated in Infectious Diseases Hospital—Encephalitis Lethargica cases have been taken.

Any change or extension of (a) General Infectious Hospital—No;
(b) Smallpox Hospital—No.

TUBERCULOSIS.

- (1) Inspection of patient's home and workshop—Yes.
- (2) Examination for contacts—By W.R.C.C.
- (3) Is house disinfected?—Yes. When—After removal of patient.
- (4) Leaflets, Lectures, etc., distributed—Yes.
- (5) Action re spitting—Advice.
- (6) Is sputum examined apart from Dispensary?—Yes.
- (7) Any special procedure adopted in cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis with T.B. in sputum.—Special disinfection of houses.
- (8) Are the requirements of Tuberculosis Regulations as to notification observed by general practitioners?—Yes.

BACTERIOLOGY.

(County Laboratory) Any suggestions?—None.

INFANT MORTALITY.

Any Voluntary Centres for Child or Mother Welfare?—No.
Causes of any excessive Infant Mortality in 1924—Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth.
Supply of Milk to Mothers and Infants. Any action?—None.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births during 1924—Males 253, Females 232. Total 485.

No. illegitimate included in above—24.

Deaths during 1924—Nett Deaths on which the rates are calculated—Males 138, Females 118.

MORTUARIES. What accommodation—

(a) For accidents.—Yes, for two bodies.

SANITARY STAFF.

Name of Sanitary Inspector—A. B. Jackson.

Annual Salary as Inspector—£200 plus bonus.

Other appointments held.—Shop Inspector.

Any Assistants?—No.

TABLE D.

Summary of Housing Work during 1924.**Houses with defects not disposed of at end of 1923—**

Houses (recorded under "Housing") with minor defects.
Public Health Acts).—20.

Houses Inspected for "Housing defects" in 1924 under Acts and Regulations—

Total inspected and recorded.—80.

Houses found satisfactory on inspection—0.

Houses needing further action.—80.

Houses not reasonably fit. Action under Section 28, 1919; Section 10 of 1923—

Houses found with defects—14.

Houses of this class remedied without formal notice—0.

Houses in regard to which formal notices were served—14.

Houses made fit after formal notice—14.

Houses in respect of which the Council executed or were
executing work in default of owner—0.

Houses in regard to which owner elected to close house in-
stead of complying with notices—0.

Action under Public Health Acts in cases of houses with minor defects not remediable under Section 28, 1919; Section 10 of 1923—

Houses with defects—66.

Houses remedied without service of formal notice—47.

Houses in regard to which formal notices were served—0.

Houses made satisfactory after formal notice—0.

Unfit Houses. Action under Sections 17 or 18, 1909—

Houses found to be totally unfit—1.

Houses closed voluntarily—0.

Unfit houses remedied without formal notice—0.

Houses represented to Council for closing orders—1.

Houses in respect of which closing orders were made—1.

Houses closed after service of closing order—0.

Houses made fit and closing order determined by Council
—1.

Houses demolished voluntarily—0.

Houses for which demolition orders were made by Council
—0.

Houses demolished compulsorily—0.

Appeals—

Appeals against notices under Section 28, 1919, or Section 10, 1923—0.

Appeals against closing orders under Section 17, 1909—0.

Appeals under Section 17 (6) 1909, refusal to determine closing orders—0.

Appeals against demolition orders, Section 18, 1909—0.

Houses with defects not disposed of at end of 1924—

Houses not reasonably fit for habitation. Section 28, 1919 ; Section 10, 1923—1.

Houses (recorded under “Housing”) with minor defects. (Public Health Acts)—18.

Houses totally unfit. (Sections 17 and 18) 1909. —0.

Other Action in regard to Housing.—

Total number of houses in district—3392.

Number of working-class houses—2612.

General standard compared with that of the Ministry of Health in Manual Vol. 1., 1919.—Fair.

OBSTRUCTIVE BUILDINGS.—Any building represented by M.O.H. under Sec. 38 (1) of 1890 Act?—None.

Result of action (if any)—None.

Any building represented by Local Government Electors under Sec. 38 (2) of 1890 Act?—None.

UNHEALTHY AREAS.—Any representations under part I. or II. of the 1890 Act? If so give particulars—None.

RECONSTRUCTION SCHEMES.—Have L.A. directed any to be prepared under Sec. 39 of 1890 Act?—None.

CONVERSION OF HOUSES.—Any houses acquired for division into separate tenements, under the 1919 Act? If so, give particulars—None.

UNFIT HOUSES.—Any complaints by Local Government Electors under Section 31 of 1890 Act as amended by the 1923 Act? None.

Any action under Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, 1899 to 1923?—None.

Any scarcity of houses? If so, where?—General.

Any overcrowding in houses, and where?—Yes, in working-class neighbourhoods.

Total number of houses built in the district under state aided and all conditions in 1924: (a) Working Class Dwellings—39.

State-aided Housing Schemes.—

A. Scheme under 1919 Act.—

Number of houses erected in 1924. (1) By Council—None; (2) By Private Builders' Subsidy—0.

B.—Scheme under 1923 Act.—None.

Have Council propounded a scheme under this Act?—Yes.

Has a scheme been submitted to the Ministry of Health for their approval?—Yes. Has it been approved?—Yes.

If scheme is approved, please enclose particulars of same.—10 Non-Parlour type houses on the Wakefield Road Site and 24 Non-Parlour type houses on the Baghill site.

Is assistance given to private individuals—(a) By lump sum?—Yes. If so, how much?—£76/18/6.

Number of houses completed by Local Authority under this Scheme in 1924—16.

Do. do by Private persons do. do.—11.

C.—Scheme under 1924 Act.—None.

Number of houses specifically approved by Ministry—56.

Total number of houses provided under all State-aided Schemes in 1924.—27.

Town Planning.—

Have Council joined a Regional Town Planning Committee?—No.

Have Council passed a resolution in 1924 deciding to prepare a scheme?—No.

Any Scheme contemplated?—No.

Has a scheme been finally approved by the Ministry of Health in 1924?—No.

Has a scheme been submitted to the Ministry of Health in 1924?—No.

Has a preliminary statement been prepared and submitted to the Ministry for approval?—No.

BOROUGH OF PONTEFRACT.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Year ending 31st December, 1924.

The following is a summary and statement of Sanitary Work carried out during the Year:—

No. of Houses in District	...	...	3420
Reports made to Committee	...	...	92
Notices served for abatement of Nuisances and other defects	...	...	96
Repairs to defective Ashpits and new doors fitted	...	...	14
W.Cs. Repaired	...	...	11
Liberating blocked drains	...	...	20
Defective sink wastes	...	...	4
Defective dust bins replaced	...	...	11
Defective roofs to houses repaired for damp- ness	...	...	10
Defective eaves spouting	...	...	23
Smoking house chimneys remedied	...	...	3
Water courses cleaned	...	...	3

Nuisances.—

Prince of Wales Colliery, Fumes from dirt stack and causing a serious nuisance to the adjacent houses at Ladybalk. After many inspections and correspondence with the owners the nuisance has finally been abated.

Privy Conversions.—

Nine properties have been reported on where privy conversion is needed, and notices have been served for the conversions of 22 privies in Spring Gardens, 4 in

Love Lane Terrace, with an additional closet and 3 conversions and 3 additional closets in the same street.

The work had not been commenced at the end of the year, but it is hoped that progress will be made and that the 400 privies will soon be wiped out.

The conversions of privies in the Park Avenue district are in abeyance on account of the very poor pressure of town's water there.

Six conversions of privies into Water Closets have been carried out.

Town's Water Supply to Houses.

In the outlying district of Fairy Hill where drinking water was obtained 250 yards from the houses, a supply of Town's water has now been laid on to the eight cottages there.

The following properties have had Town's water taken into the houses in place of the stand pipes:—

8	Houses in Tanshelf Drive.
8	„ Barbican Row, also new sinks fixed.
5	„ Nags Head Inn Yard.
10	„ Star Yard.

Yard Surfaces.—

An improvement has been made by the sett paving of the unsatisfactory yard surfaces at the Blue Bell and Robin Hood Inns, and storm boards provided in case of the overflowing of the sewers so as to prevent the flooding of the Robin Hood.

The paving of back streets is still much needed in several parts of the Town.

Rats and Mice Order.—

Notices have been sent out to farmers and others whose premises were likely to be infested with Rats, and

notices inserted in the Guide and on the screen at the Picture Houses.

No doubt good results were obtained by this as people are anxious to be rid of the vermin.

Shop Acts.—

As in previous years frequent warning to small shopkeepers who were found to disregard the Closing Order has been necessary.

Overcrowding is still prevalent in the Town and district. 24 new houses are in course of erection on the Willow Park Site, and 10 houses on the King's Mead Site. They should be ready for occupation very shortly. In my opinion 400 to 500 more houses are needed to meet the demand in the Town.

Workshops.—

There are 11 bakehouses, all kept in good order, and 30 other workshops including 20 Milliners', Dress-makers' and Tailors'.

Common Lodging Houses.—

There are 5 Common Lodging Houses in the Town. These have been kept clean and in good order. No complaints have been made.

Slaughter Houses.—

Licensed 13. There are 2 registered. These have been kept clean and in good order.

There are 21 registered cowkeepers and 8 retailers of milk. The approximate number of milch cows is 200, and they are habitually turned into the Park to graze for 6 months of the year.

Ashpit Cleansing.—

The work of ashpit cleansing is in the hands of

the Borough Engineer. The following is a summary of the work done during the past twelve months:—

No. of Loads taken to Destructor	...	4988
Do. do. Brick Yard Tip		6264
Do. do. Farmers' Tips	...	54
Total of loads collected		<u>11306</u>

Cost of Collection and Destructor.—

Refuse Destructor	...	1361	8	6
Ashpit Cleansing	...	2299	5	10
Trade Refuse	...	218	1	6
Horses and Carts, Motors		623	15	2
		<u>£4502</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>0</u>

Average Cost per load ... 7/11½d.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Cases removed to Hospital:—

Scarlet Fever	...	58
Diphtheria	...	10
Enteric	...	4

Cases treated at Home:—

Enteric	...	2
Encephalitis Lethargica		2
Puerperal	...	2

A. B. JACKSON.



